

REMARKS

The specification has been amended. Claims 1, 7 - 9, 15, 21 - 23, 28, and 34 - 36 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced with these amendments, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 2, 6, 16, 20, 29, and 33 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice. Claims 1, 3 - 5, 7 - 15, 17 - 19, 21 - 28, 30 - 32, and 34 - 40 remain in the application.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action dated January 25, 2005 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 1, 3, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent Application 2004/0148226 to Shanahan. Subject matter from allowable Claims 6 and 20 has been incorporated into independent Claims 1 and 15, and these independent claims are therefore deemed allowable as currently presented. Dependent Claims 3 and 17 are therefore deemed allowable (at least) by virtue of their dependency. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §102 rejection.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action states that Claims 2 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shanahan in view of U. S. Patent Application 2004/0016796 to Hanna et al. Paragraph 5 of the Office Action states that Claims 4 - 5 and 18 - 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shanahan in view of U. S. 5,640,002 to Ruppert et al. Paragraph 6 of the Office Action states that Claims 7, 21, and 23 are rejected

Serial No. 10/665,282

-18-

RSW920030126US1

under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shanahan and Hanna et al in view of Ruppert. Paragraph 8 of the Office Action states that Claims 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shanahan. Paragraph 9 of the Office Action states that Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shanahan and Hanna et al. Paragraph 10 of the Office Action states that Claims 31 - 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shanahan and Ruppert. Paragraph 11 of the Office Action states that Claims 34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shanahan, Hanna, and Ruppert. Claims 2, 6, 16, 20, 29, and 33 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice, and the rejection is therefore moot as to these claims. The §103(a) rejections are respectfully traversed with regard to the remaining claims.

Independent Claims 7, 21, and 34 have been amended to incorporate the substance of limitations found in allowed Claims 10, 24, and 37. In particular, Claims 7, 21, and 34 specify that the first checksum is stored in the RFID tag of the transaction receipt "such that [it] can subsequently be compared to a second checksum to be computed over ... information stored in an RFID tag affixed to ... items possessed by a shopper who possesses the transaction receipt in order to determine whether the items possessed by the shopper are those which were presented for the purchase represented by the transaction receipt" (Claim 7, lines 8 - 12, emphasis added). The cited references fail to teach this type of checksum-to-checksum comparison, and independent Claims 7, 21, and 34 -- as well as their dependent Claims 8 - 9, 22 - 23, and 35 - 36 - - are therefore deemed patentable over the references.

Serial No. 10/665,282

-19-

RSW920030126US1

Dependent Claims 4 - 5, 18 - 19, and 31 - 32 are deemed patentable by virtue of (at least) the allowability of independent Claims 1, 15, and 28. (The patentability of Claims 1 and 15 was discussed above with regard to the §102 rejection, and Claim 28, which specifies analogous limitations thereto, is deemed patentable for the same reasons. Dependent Claim 30 is also considered patentable by virtue of, at least, the allowability of Claim 28.)

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the §103 rejection of all claims.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Paragraph 12 of the Office Action states that Claims 10 - 14, 24 - 27, and 37 - 40 are allowed. Paragraph 13 of the Office Action states that Claims 6, 8 - 9, 20, 22 - 23, 33, and 35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Limitations from allowable dependent Claims 6, 20, and 33 have been incorporated into the independent Claims 1, 15, and 28, from which they depend, and the dependent claims have been cancelled from the application without prejudice. Independent Claims 7, 21, and 34 -- from which Claims 8 - 9, 22 - 23, and 35 depend -- have been amended, as discussed above with regard to the §103 rejection. These independent claims are deemed patentable, and Claims 8 - 9, 22 - 23, and 35 are therefore deemed patentable as currently presented.

Serial No. 10/665,282

-20-

RSW920030126US1

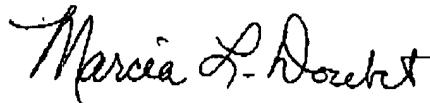
IV. Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants respectfully note that the underlined claim language presented on Pages 6 - 7 of the Office Action, which is stated on lines 17 - 18 of Page 7 as being "critical", provides the limitations of allowed Claim 14. Allowed Claims 10, 24, and 37 contain different limitations. (For example, these claims do not include the "charging a fee ..." limitation specified on lines 15 - 16 of Page 7.) Thus, Applicants interpret the statement on lines 17 - 18 of Page 7 to apply only to Claim 14.

V. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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Serial No. 10/665,282

-21-

RSW920030126US1